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Dec. 15, 2004
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NEWS RELEASE

(Editor's Note: Political Science 421, "Seminar on Human Rights and Terrorism," will meet Wednesdays from 2 to 4:15 p.m., Jan. 5 - April 27, in St. Joseph Hall 434. To arrange to cover the class, contact Teri Rizvi at (937) 229-3241.)

A CRASH COURSE IN CURRENT AFFAIRS: COLLEGE STUDENTS TO RETHINK RULES FOR THE WAR ON TERROR

DAYTON, Ohio — There's no textbook that outlines the rules of military engagement for the War on Terror.

Mark Ensalaco, director of the international studies and human rights program at the University of Dayton, has hand-picked 15 upper-level political science and human rights majors to think seriously about how a "War on Terror rulebook" should read as part of a new seminar that will be offered in January.

"How do you fight the War on Terror and stay within the rules of military engagement? Are we back to being pirates and can we pursue them anywhere on the Barbary Coast? There's no literature out there, so we're going to rewrite the rules for this new kind of war," said Ensalaco, who's finishing his own book, *From Black September to September 11*, believed to be the first complete history of Middle Eastern terrorism from 1968 through Yasser Arafat's death.

Students enrolled in Ensalaco's "Seminar on Human Rights and Terror" will break into research teams and examine four areas that Ensalaco believes require clearer guidelines or greater discussion:

- individual rights vs. domestic surveillance and homeland security needs
- permissible interrogation techniques in light of the Abu Ghraib controversy
- selective assassinations of suspected terrorists

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- the use of preventative war

“The war in Iraq wasn’t a pre-emptive war. Saddam Hussein was not on the verge of attacking us. This was prevention. When do you engage in a war of prevention?” said Ensalaco, who’s been sought out by the Associated Press, Reuters, Agence France Press and other media outlets for his views on terrorism and human rights issues.

The class will analyze the progress of the War on Terror. “We have to defeat terrorism. We’re looking at defeating a global terrorism network. What’s the best way to do it?” he asked. “Right now, the human rights and security people are not speaking the same language. There’s not enough common ground between them.”

Ensalaco wants to foster critical thinking about the most daunting issues facing the U.S. — terrorism and homeland security. As a prerequisite, students are required to have taken courses in human rights, terrorism and civil liberties.

Following 9/11, Ensalaco revamped a course in political violence and terrorism to focus on threats from al-Qaida. The popular class, dubbed “the terrorism course” — fills up quickly with students anxious to understand why the U.S. was attacked by a band of extremists.

Terrorism has become a hot focus of college courses around the country. According to a Sept. 9 Voice of America segment, possibly more than 1,000 new courses have been introduced on college campuses in the past three years.

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For media interviews, contact **Mark Ensalaco** at (937) 229-2761.